

came some \$90,000 worth of high grade ore. This mine was one of Midway's largest producers. Henry T. Coleman of Midway directed the work in these mines, and some who were employed included John Morton, Jerry Springer, Nate Springer, George Schear, John A. Sulser, Carson Smith, David J. Wilson, Nymphus Watkins, Jacob Kummer, Frank Greenwell, Charles Alexander, Adam Empey, Brigham Hamilton and William John Wilson.

The St. Louis-Vasser claims were located by Judge A. C. Hatch, Henry T. Coleman and Samuel Hair, along with the West St. Louis and Merle V. groups of mines. About 1900 they sold their interests to a group of mining men from Salt Lake City, including Robert Walker and Colonel Shaunessy. Under new management the mines employed several Midway men and began working on the St. Louis-Vassar Incline Shaft. Charles Buhler had charge of the work, but the company ran out of money and the property was turned back to the locaters.

Another large operation that hired many local men included the Steam Boat Tunnel, later known as Mountain Lake Tunnel. Charles Buhler was foreman of the Steam Boat Tunnel and William Witt of the Mountain Lake Tunnel. Many who worked in these mines included Henry T. Coleman, John Buehler, Nathaniel Baldwin, Ernest Kohler, Charles Bigler, William Bigler, Samuel Ritchie, Fred Sonderegger, John A. Sulser and Hyrum Shelton, and two women who were cooks, Mrs. Mary Bigler Kohler and Mrs. Bertha Sonderegger Wilson.

Others who worked at the Mountain Lake, or Jesse Knight operation, were Elijah Watkins, Joseph Hair, George Bonner, Charles Bonner, George Schear, Joseph Galli, Charles Mitchell. Joseph Hair was killed and Elijah Watkins blinded in an explosion in this mine.

Later the Daily Judge Mining Company and the Knight Investment Company ran the Snake Creek Tunnel as a joint venture in 1910. Many who found employment here included Ernest Dayton, (Jay) John Abplanalp, Frank Abplanalp, Michael Abplanalp, Alonzo Abplanalp, John Burt, Sam Ritchie, Fred Sonderegger, Thomas Kummer, Henry S. Coleman, Alvah Ross, Morris Watkins, John H. Buehler, George Bonner, Charlie Bonner, William Bigler, Charles Bigler, Charles Mitchell, Charles Whistler, Eli Korah, Joseph Schoney, Earl Hardy, Emil Nelson, William Hancock, and cooks, Mrs. Alice Mohlman and Mrs. Ella O'Neil Hancock Whistler.

A shaft known as the J. I. C. was sunk on Bonanza Flat and operated for a short time. Jerry Springer and Alonzo Alder were some who worked on this shaft. "The Montreal" was also operated in the early 1900's, and provided work for the Alder brothers, Alfred, William and James, as well as Peter Abplanalp. The "Lone Hill" was operated by Ira Clark, Nate Springer, Alfred Alder, Jacob Kummer, Alonzo Alder and Peter Abplanalp.

The "John the Revelator" mine was first opened by Henry T. Cole-

man for the Southern Tier Mining Company, but later discontinued. It was worked at different times by lessors who included Sam Hair, Monroe Hair, Nephi Huber, Johnny Shelton, Dale Coleman, Martin Huber and Robert Gorlinski.

Other claims in the Midway area that were worked at one time or another included The Big Four, Balsam Grove, Heber Cities, Lone Pine, Pine Cone, Boulder Basin, Blue Bird, Silver Island Lake and Rudie.

William (Billie) Bogan who had considerable interests in the Park City area, which he later sold, also located some claims in the Snake Creek area. He worked these for many years until he became too old. Fred Hanney worked for many years for Mr. Bogan, as did John A. Sulser.

Another "old timer" who spent most of his life at claims in the White Pines was Henry Tattersall. He wore a long, white flowing beard, and was always seen without a hat coming from his diggings or from the springs with pails of water.

Jack McCarthy, Levi Hancock and others worked claims in Dutch Canyon, while "Brig" Hamilton, James (Jim) Hamilton and William John Wilson worked Blue Bird. A Mr. Kilkennie claimed Horse Shoe Bend, and Nate C. Springer, Alfred Alder and Cornelius Springer worked their claim, Silent Shade. William Hacket and Barney Kennah had claims near the divide at Brighton and Nephi Huber and George Wilson worked the Rudie claim.

At one time Ephraim Mohlman and George Watkins leased the Mountain Lake mine and shipped a few tons of ore. Orvil Scott, Wilford Van Wagonen, Sidney Epperson and William (Billie) Johnston also had claims in Snake Creek and Dutch Canyon. Mr. Johnston first claimed the area where the New Park Mine now is located. He held the claims for many years, though many advised him to give them up. His judgment and faith were later vindicated when the New Park was brought in on his claims.

Benjamin (Bennie) Clark also worked claims in Sid's Canyon and Lime Canyon, but the operation was limited.

Mining has aided Midway's economy in many ways during the years. Many have succeeded in working claims while others sold produce or other goods to those who came to work in the mines. LeRoy Buehler, William Larsen, William Haueter, Joseph Bergener, Charles Buehler, Joseph Buehler and Carl Hanney made mining their career and achieved in their chosen fields.

Perhaps the two most successful Midway men in mining outside the area were John H. Buehler and Henry S. Coleman. Both got their starts in Midway mines and later rose to prominent positions in Utah and Nevada mining firms.



## MINING

Midway had still not been formed from the two Snake Creek communities when the first high grade ore was discovered in 1864 in the Park City mining district. While the discoveries were not in the Midway area, their impact was soon to be felt in the new community. Other outcroppings of good grade ore were discovered in American Fork Canyon in 1875. Midway lay almost in the middle of these two important discoveries and the areas of Snake Creek, Pine Creek and Dutch Canyon soon were overrun with prospectors. Many claims were staked out in this area, with Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey and Nathan Springer leading much of the prospecting work.

Following the initial discoveries in the Park City area the Ontario, Daily Judge, Daily West, American Flag, New Quincy, Little Bell, New York, Wabash, California, Silver King, Park Utah, Spirro Tunnel, New Park and the Park City mines were organized. Many smaller mines were discovered, but soon were consolidated with the larger companies.

Park City began to grow rapidly with these discoveries, and for more than half a century the mining work supported two railroads, the Denver and Rio Grande and the Union Pacific. The Park City mining district is about eight miles north of Midway, and for more than 75 years has served as the major market center for the farmers of Midway. The mines also furnished employment for many men from Midway who chose mining as their pursuit for wealth and happiness. Many prospered, some failed and several lost their lives or were maimed in a sincere effort to succeed.

In American Fork Canyon the first discoveries were made around 1875 and by 1888 the Miller Hill, the Dutchman and the Pacific mines were the three major producers. These mines operated for many years, but the ore bodies were relatively small and soon were depleted. However, for a few years these mines supported the state's first narrow gauge railroad.

These American Fork Canyon mines also served as a market for eggs, butter, cheese and vegetables for Midway farmers. Reports indicate that some of the farmers carried as much as 75 pounds of produce on their backs, following a rough trail over the mountains west of Midway into the canyon to supply the needs of the miners.

In the Midway area itself a mining district was organized, known as the Blue Ledge mining district. Two of the earliest mines were the Flagg Staff and Lucky Bill, neither of which produced much ore. Other early properties near Midway included the Southern Tier group and the St. Louis-Vasser claims. The Southern Tier group was owned by Eugene Levigneux and a Mr. St. Joer, both Frenchmen. From the Southern Tier

### GOLD IN MIDWAY?

Up over the mound on to the west slope of Midway there are two mine dumps on the side of the mountain in view of the town of Midway. The first one was dug by a man by the name of Sam Boyd under the direction of Benny Clark. There was an ancient story repeated of Spaniards who came into the area in the early years prior to pioneer time. And the story indicated that they found gold in almost pure form in the proximity of these mines. However none of the white settlers ever located the supposed mines but various people through dreams indicated where they might be. And so both of these diggings have been prompted largely through dreams. The Benny Clark mine was dug in the early 1900's and proved entirely fruitless. The other slightly to the right was dug by Nobel Snyder. It was prompted to a greater extent by a friend geologist who indicated he was quite certain there was gold in that area.

Some years ago, a certain geologist from Philadelphia College indicated to Reed Kohler that on his farm, which is adjacent to these mines, that he felt quite sure the diggings were prompted by real fact because he felt sure that formation was indicative of gold. However none has ever been discovered.

Snake Creek Mines (Top to Bottom) are

White Snake

High in snake creek

Southern Tier Mines

Orvil Scott's #1

Orvil Scott's #2

Steamboat

John the Revclator

Mountain Toppe Tunnel Claim

Wilford Van Wagoner Claim

Sidney Spensen "

William (Billie) Johnston "

Tom (Billie) Hogan Claim

Captain  
Adair  
Silver  
Gold